Consumption of Fuel by the Vehicles in the Country

†*34. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on account of bad condition of roads in the country, the vehicles consume more fuel than their required quantity;

(b) if so, by what percentage more fuel is consumed by the vehicles in our country as compared to the international avarage; and

(c) whether Government are going to formulate any time-bound plan and implement the same in order to avoid such type of loss being caused to the nation; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various factors like difference in vehicle technology, mixed traffic conditions, congestion etc. contribute to excess consumption of fuel. It cannot be compared with any international average.

(c) A Special maintenance programme has been launched in 1999-2000 to improve road condition in 8,000 Kms. of National Highways. Work has started on 4-laning on the golden quadrilateral and North-South and East-West Corridors. This project is likely to cost about Rs. 54,000 crores and will be completed in 10 years time by NHAI.

Satellite Telephones in Far-Flung Areas of Himachal Pradesh

*35. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether government propose to install satellite telephones in the far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh by INMARSAT Cooperative body of the foreign countries;

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the agreement entered into with INMARSAT; and

(c) the number of telephones that will be installed in far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh under this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) To extend telecome facility to far-flung areas of Himachal Pradaesh, 30 numbers of Satellite village Public telephones have been planned. For this purpose, satellite phones are being procured by the Government through open competitive bids. Only the satellite segment at a concessional rate is being hired from INMARSAT. This service is being introduced after successful conclusion of a pilot project executed jointly by INMARSAT and the Department of Telecom. under a Memorandum of Understanding. INMARSAT provided satellite terminals free of cost during the pilot project. It also provided satellite segment. The pilot project was coordinated by DoT. For Operating the service no other agreement is required.

Steps for ensuring optimum growth of backward States

*36. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Gross Fiscal Deficit *vis-a-vis* aggregate revenue deficit of each State and UT during the last three years;

(b) the factors responsible and measures contemplated to improve financial status of the State and UTs;

(c) the growth rate and related economic indicators of various States and UTs, alongwith the steps initiated to ensure optimum growth of each backward State as well as for removing regional imbalance of development; and

(d) the amount allocated by the Central, amount utilized by each State and UT for infrastructure development during the 8th and 9th Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As per the RBI Report, the gross fiscal deficit and the aggregate revenue deficit for the last